

*The mission of the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) is to ensure that every program, service, benefit, activity and facility operated or funded by the City and County of San Francisco is fully accessible to, and useable by, people with disabilities.*

## **Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council**

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Mayor's Office on Disability  
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I look forward to today's conversation on many of the state and local transportation and street safety initiatives impacting people with disabilities that were mentioned in my October Report to the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC). Please do not hesitate to recommend action items related to any part of these presentations, or related to other items discussed in this report, as follow-up to today's Public Hearing.

Some of the activities that the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) has been engaged with since the October Mayor's Disability Council Meeting are as follows:

- **Access and Functional Needs Workgroup:** The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) held its first merged meeting of the MDC Disability Disaster Preparedness subcommittee and the Access and Functional Needs workgroup on November 3, 2017. The group received an update on City and County of San Francisco Paratransit Services, and is exploring the possibility of how in the event of a city emergency, paratransit may be more broadly deployed to all people with disabilities, including those who are currently not eligible or only intermittently eligible for paratransit services.
- **Accessible Voting:** The Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) met on November 7, 2017 and received updates from Slalom Consulting regarding their progress on the feasibility of the City developing a voting system that incorporates open source software. The VAAC encouraged the consultants to consider both accessibility and usability as part of their report, and will continue to encourage the consultants to address accessibility concerns that stretch beyond the ADA compliance minimums.

The VAAC also received a presentation from Democracy Live, a software platform that is being explored as part of the City's responsibility to implement a State-

mandated accessible remote voting solution for people with disabilities and military personnel by June 2018. VAAC members expressed concern about the intent of the State legislation, as well as the accessibility of the platform solution, especially pertaining to blind or low-vision individuals. The VAAC will address these concerns in detail at the next meeting, which is January 9, 2018 from 2-4 PM in City Hall. Participation from the MDC or interested members of the public continues to be encouraged.

- Dignity Fund Needs Assessment Survey and Focus Groups: The Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) released its Dignity Fund Needs Assessment survey, which can be found at: [www.sfdaas.org/survey](http://www.sfdaas.org/survey). The survey is open now through December 8, 2017 only, and the results will help plan future city services and supports for adults with disabilities, as well as older adults. Participation in the survey by adults across the disability community, including working professionals with disabilities, is much needed and highly encouraged. To support this effort, the possibility of several in-person focus groups for people with disabilities is being explored as well. MOD will send the focus group information through its distribution when it becomes available.
- Golden Gate Park JFK Drive Proposal: The Recreation and Parks Department, along with several partner community organizations, is currently exploring the possibility of extended weekend closures of JFK Drive to vehicle traffic. MOD has received feedback about this proposal from access coordinators representing the Fine Arts museums, the California Academy of Sciences, and members of the public with disabilities, and as such, will be in conversation with Recreation and Parks about accessibility impacts related to this effort. It is recommended that the Mayor's Disability Council assist in monitoring the progress of this proposal, and consider this for a future MDC Public Hearing agenda item.
- Sheriff's Department: In response to public comment provided to the Mayor's Disability Council at the July 21, 2017 meeting, MOD partnered with the Deaf Counseling and Referral Agency (DCARA) to provide education and training specific to law enforcement and the Sheriff's Department on cultural competencies related to Deafness and communicating with Deaf individuals in emergency and other situations. The training was well-received, and MOD will be working with the Sheriff's Department on any follow-up and implementation related to this discussion.
- Support At Home Voucher Program: The Institute on Aging, with promotional support from Supervisor Yee's office, DAAS, MOD and others, continues to roll-out its Support At Home Voucher program. This program is designed to support

people with disabilities who require home or personal care assistance who do not qualify for In-Home Supportive Services because of income requirements. Support at Home is now specifically aiming to support adults with disabilities, including working professionals and students, who are between the ages of 18-59. Please spread the word about this valuable benefit program. More information can be found at: <http://sfgov.org/mod/support-home-new-pilot-program>

For questions or comments, or to get involved in or provide feedback on any of the items mentioned in this report, please contact MOD at 415 554-6789 or [mod@sfgov.org](mailto:mod@sfgov.org).